# News of the Month . . .

## Union Oil Merges Brea and R. T. Collier

Union Oil Co. of California has announced the merger of two of its subsidiary corporations, Brea Chemicals, Inc., operating in the petrochemical field, and the R. T. Collier Corp., operating in the carbon and allied fields.

The new corporation will be known as the Collier Carbon & Chemical Corp., with headquarters at 714 West Olympic Blvd., Los Angeles. This corporation will continue to manufacture and market Brea brand chemicals and will conduct its petrochemical and carbon businesses as corporate divisions.

In 1954, Brea began to market aqua ammonia to agriculture, and has since added ammonium phosphate, nitric acid, and ammonium nitrate, the latter in both prilled and solution form.

The carbon division of the new corporation, with its main plant at Santa Clara, Calif., is a producer of industrial carbon for chemical and metallurgical processors. This division also markets charcoal briquets and several other products made from active carbon.

R. T. Collier, as president, will be chief executive officer of the new corporation. For the past 11 years he has been president of R. T. Collier Corp.

"With this merger," reports Mr. Collier, "we will widen our scope of activity, with a new combination of technical experience and manufacturing and research facilities for developing new products in the petrochemical and carbon field."

Homer Reed will be vice president of the new corporation. Mr. Reed has been president of Brea Chemicals, Inc. since it was organized Oct. 28, 1952. Prior to that he had been chief engineer of Union Oil.

## Stauffer Gets Patent On Phosphate Insecticides

A patent which covers the manufacture, composition, and use of a series of phosphate insecticides and acaricides has been obtained by Stauffer Chemical. Issued as U. S. Patent 2,795,224, it is cited by the company as a basic patent on the development of the insecticide which Stauffer is now marketing under the trade name of Trithion.

The U. S. Patent Office granted 12 claims to the inventor. These include, as new compositions of matter, *p*-chlorophenyl-mercaptomethyl dialkyl dithiophosphates (and, in addition, specifically the ethyl and isopropyl compounds); method of making these dialkyl dithiophosphates; method of killing pests by the use of the dialkyl dithiophosphates; formulations of the dialkyl dithiophosphates with inert adjuvants.

It is also mentioned that these dialkyl dithiophosphates have proved to be effective even in controlling phosphate-resistant strains of mites.

## Superphosphoric Acid Ammoniated

Superphosphoric acid, developed by TVA, was successfully ammoniated in June in an ammoniation reactor developed by J. C. Carlile Corp. of Denver, Colo. The ammoniation was carried out at Hopkinsville, Ky., in the plant of West Kentucky Liquid Fertilizer Corp. The formulas were 11-33-0 and 10-10-10.

## Complex Fertilizer Plant To Be Built in Italy

A complex fertilizer plant is to be built in Italy for Societa Azienda Nationale Idrogenazione Combusibili of Milan. The plant is to be built by Potasse & Engrais Chimiques. It will use the PEC carbonitric process to produce 400 to 600 tons per day of a 13-10-12 fertilizer.

## Hercules Changes Name of Missouri Ammonia Works

Hercules Powder announces it has changed the name of its Missouri Ammonia Works at Louisiana, Mo. to Missouri Chemical Works.

The company said that the increasing number of chemical materials produced at the site caused the former name to be misleading.

Missouri Chemical Works produced only anhydrous ammonia from the time Hercules purchased the plant in the spring of 1954 until a few months ago when production of pentaerythritol and formaldehyde began. A new methanol plant also is nearing completion at the site.

## Liquid Fertilizer Plant Begins Operation Near Chicago

Bisbee Agrichemical Co., Inc., has started production of liquid fertilizer in Chicago Heights, Ill. Capacity of its plant is in excess of 15,000 tons a year. The new company will manufacture nine standard mixtures containing all three plant nutrients. It will also formulate custom mixes for specific soil needs.

# ASSOCIATIONS

## NPFI to Study Dues Structure; Potash Producers Resign

A five-man committee to study the dues structure of the National Plant Food Institute to "determine whether there are any inequities" has been appointed by the new president of NPFI, John A. Miller. The committee is to report its findings to the board of directors on Oct. 30.

On the committee are: William E. McGuirk, Jr., president of Davison Chemical; B. W. Bellinger, executive vice president of Tennessee Corp.; J. C. Crissey, division manager, GLF Soil Building Service; Hugo Riemer, president of Allied Chemical's Nitrogen Division; and Richard C. Wells, president of National Potash Co. McGuirk is committee chairman.

Decision to appoint this committee is the result presumably of the resignation of the six potash producers who belonged to both NPFI and the American Potash Institute. Those six companies are American Potash & Chemical, Duval Sulphur & Potash, National Potash, Potash Co. of America, Southwest Potash Corp., and the U. S. Potash Division of U. S. Borax & Chemical. The nation's other major potash producer, International Minerals, not an API member, retained its NPFI membership.

The six potash producers who resigned (effective June 30) cite as the cause what they consider to be an inequitable assessment for the financing of NPFI's expanded program of activities (Ag and Food, July 1957, page 483). Fred Coope, president of Potash Co. of America, and spokesman for the resigning members, said the proposed dues were "extremely inequitable . . . for the great majority of potash companies who have for years supported the American Potash Institute . . . for a program of research, education, and promotion which benefits the entire fertilizer industry."

"We were already deeply committed to the expense of the American Potash Institute," he continued, "and we concluded we could not bear the additional burden of this NPFI program."

The potash producers pointed out that the proposed new program of the National Plant Food Institute is basically similar to activities conducted by API since its formation in 1935. During that time API has spent more than $10 million in promoting balanced fertilization programs aimed at increasing the proper use of potash as well as other plant nutrients in the form of mixed fertilizers.

During the 22 years of API activity the consumption of agricultural potash in this country has risen from 218,157 tons in 1935 to 2,103,127 tons in 1956. Nevertheless, the price of potash has not increased in the past 20 years, contrary to the general rise in most other materials.

Despite their resignation, the potash manufacturers endorse the fundamental principles of the NPFI program. The companies offered to continue their previous contributions to NPFI even though they have resigned.

A representative of one of the resigning companies said the 1956–57 budget for API was $611,000, while the total budget for NPFI was $530,845 for the same period. This is in spite of the fact that in the NPFI 1956–57 budget, based on the same levy of net sales for all, potash products were less than 7% of the total. Taking this situation into consideration, the disparity between API member contributions and those of others to educational programs becomes highly inequitable, he said. Support for the API program has come from assessments of from 1 to 2% of each member-company's annual gross sales.

An important part of API's program has been the financing of research projects in more than 40 different states and provinces in the U. S. and Canada to provide both general and regional information on correct use of potash and other fertilizer materials. In addition, API has conducted a widespread educational campaign through advertising, publicity, and field representatives to further the program.

## 70 Papers on Ag and Food Program for New York ACS Meet

Five symposia are on the program of the Division of Agricultural and Food Chemistry for the ACS meeting in New York Sept. 8 to 13. The Division of Fertilizer and Soil Chemistry, whose program begins Monday noon and continues until Wednesday noon, has a total of 26 papers scheduled.

Symposia arranged for the Ag and Food Division are on: future utilization of agricultural commodities, fermentation process and equipment design, pH control in fermentation, radiotracer techniques in pesticide studies, nonclinical uses of antibiotics, and (jointly with the Division of Biological Chemistry) the chemistry and physiological actions of gibberellins. A total of 70 papers will be heard by members of the division, whose program begins Monday morning and continues through Friday morning.

The complete program of the ACS meeting is published in the Aug. 5 issue of *Chemical & Engineering News*. The programs of the Division of Agricultural and Food Chemistry and the Division of Fertilizer and Soil Chemistry will be in the September issue of Ag and Food.

## PEOPLE

**George S. Kido,** former director of the insecticide testing laboratory of Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation, has joined O. M. Scott & Sons as director of western research.

**L. C. Kemp, Jr.,** has been elected vice president in charge of Texaco's petrochemical department. He was formerly general manager of the department, which includes the 180-ton-a-day ammonia plant now being built at Lockport, Ill.

**Henry L. Cox,** a specialist in food technology, has been appointed a technical consultant at Armour Research Foundation.

**Salvador Orochena,** former head chemist in the department of process development and engineering for Chemagro Corp., has joined the Southwest Research Institute as head of organic chemistry activities.

**Vern L. Marble,** research assistant in the University of California department of agronomy, Davis, for the past three years, has joined Calspray as district agronomist. His headquarters will be in Fresno, Calif.

**Jack S. Newcomer** has been appointed research manager of organic chemical research (which includes agricultural chemicals) for Hooker Electrochemical. He was supervisor of organic research.

**Bryce L. Rhodes** has been named general manager of the phosphate chemicals division of International Minerals & Chemical. He became development and production staff manager last year.

**Earl L. Butz** has resigned as Assistant Secretary of Agriculture to become head of the Indiana Agricultural Extension Service. He will also serve as dean of the school of agriculture and director of the agricultural experiment station at Purdue.

**David Richard Smith** has left the Purdue faculty to become senior research chemist for A. E. Staley.

**Donald S. Marshall** has been appointed manager of the recently established seed treating division of Calspray. He had been eastern coordinator of research. His headquarters will be in Richmond, Calif.

**M. B. Gillis** has been promoted to director of research for International Minerals, succeeding **I. M. LeBaron,** who has become vice president in charge of research. **William G. Knopf, Jr.,** has been named assistant director of research with broad responsibilities in all areas of the division. Dr. Gillis was formerly assistant director of research for organic and biological sciences, and Dr. Knopf, assistant director for inorganic chemical sciences and physics.

**Lloyd C. Mitchell,** Food and Drug Administration research chemist, has been selected as the first recipient of the annual Harvey W. Wiley Award of AOAC.

**William F. Hueg, Jr.,** has been named extension agronomist at the University of Minnesota.

**Frank J. Juchter,** manager of Calspray's manufacturing department, has been appointed vice president and member of the board of directors.

**William J. Haude** has been appointed president of Grace Chemical Co. a division of W. R. Grace & Co. He has been vice president and general manager of Grace Chemical since 1955.

**J. K. Brown** has been promoted from general sales manager to assistant general manager of the Green Cross Products Division, Sherwin-Williams of Canada, Ltd. **A. L. Harvard,** formerly assistant general sales manager, succeeds Brown as general sales manager. Succeeding Harvard as assistant general sales manager is **E. W. Smye,** formerly western district manager.

**William O. Drinkwater,** assistant professor in the Rutgers horticulture department, has been named acting chairman of the vegetable crops groups there, succeeding **Lyman G. Schermerhorn,** who has retired.

**A. Frank Reed,** a vice president of the Lion Oil Division of Monsanto, becomes an assistant in sales matters to executives of both Lion and Monsanto's inorganic chemicals division.